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Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry

Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management

Food and Agriculture Organization

European Forestry Commission

Fortieth session
Geneva, 22-23 March 2018
Item 1 of the Provisional Agenda
Adoption of the Agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the fortieth session[1]

Session to be held at the Palais des Nations (Room VIII), Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 22 March 2018.

This annotated agenda provides guidance to delegates to the Joint Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management on the structure of the meeting and main topics to be discussed.

The Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management will be invited to provide guidance on the implementation of all areas of the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work (WIPoW), supervise the work of Teams of Specialists and facilitate the exchange of information on their work, and identify priorities for action and relevant emerging issues. The Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management will suggest priorities and specific recommendations to the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the European Forestry Commission for consideration and shall, for each Work Area, on the basis of a report from the secretariat, review and comment on the activities undertaken during the past year, the current year and the plans for the forthcoming year.

Work delivered by the secretariat since the thirty-ninth session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party can be found in the background documents by Work Area, which will be made available on the website of the Forestry and Timber Section before the meeting. Presentations by the secretariat will not repeat the content of the background documents, but rather highlight main achievements by the secretariat under each Work Area. Main issues will be discussed in interactive group work to allow for ample feedback from participants.

The main issues to be considered during this session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party are: the next round of Forest Resources Assessment reporting, a revised structure of the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire, the next Forest Sector Outlook Study, the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry 2015, the mid-term review of the voluntary implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan, capacity-building on criteria and indicators in the Caucasus and Central Asia, the Bonn Challenge for the Caucasus and Central Asia as well as reports from all the Teams of Specialists.

[1] Documents and more information, including the registration form, at http://www.unece.org/forests/wpfsem2018.html

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I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.

2. Outcomes of the joint seventy-fifth session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the thirty-ninth session of the FAO European Forestry Commission.

3. Update on international policy processes with an impact on forests.

4. Guidance on Work Areas:

   (a) Work Area 1: Data, monitoring and assessment;

   (b) Work Area 2: Policy dialogue and advice;

   (c) Work Area 3: Communication and outreach; and

   (d) Work Area 4: Capacity-building.

5. Overview on the Economic Commission for Europe and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation's forest-related work in the region and list of Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work activities 2019.

6. Any other business.

7. Date and place of next meeting.

8. Election of officers.

9. Adoption of the report.

II. Background information

10. The Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management is a subsidiary body of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission and contributes to the implementation of the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work (WIPoW) of those two bodies. It does so by coordinating the Teams of Specialists and the activities of the WIPoW as well as providing technical advice. It takes instructions from Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the European Forestry Commission and meets annually to:

(a) Provide guidance on the implementation of all areas of the WIPoW;

(b) Supervise the work of Teams of Specialists and facilitate the exchange of information on their work;

(c) Identify priorities for action and relevant emerging issues; and transmit suggested priorities and specific recommendations to Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the European Forestry Commission for consideration; and

(d) The Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management shall, for each Work Area, on the basis of a report from the secretariat, review and comment on the activities undertaken during the past year and the plans for the forthcoming year.

11. The Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management shall review, on an ongoing basis, the work of the Teams of Specialists and their contribution to the Work Areas, as well as work between the Teams of Specialists, to ensure the most effective and efficient implementation of their activities. It will:

(a) Receive and discuss the reports from the Teams of Specialists in order to enhance the understanding of their activities and assess their work plans. When needed, the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management may review and recommend updated mandates for endorsement by the parent bodies;

(b) Identify possible synergies; and facilitate the exchange of experiences between Teams of Specialists and delegations from member States; and

(c) Increase the visibility and impact of the work of Teams of Specialists among member States and within the relevant bodies in the United Nations.

12. The Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management, as part of its work for Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the European Forestry Commission, shall:

(a) Propose priorities for activities in the Work Areas and on relevant emerging issues;

(b) Provide, upon request from the parent bodies, methodologies for use in economic analysis of the sector, as well as techniques for collecting, validating, analyzing and disseminating information and statistics;

(c) Initiate, upon request from the parent bodies, ad hoc projects in economics and statistics related to forestry, forest products and forest policies and institutions;

(d) Contribute and provide technical advice to Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the European Forestry Commission on issues under consideration by those bodies, including the preparation of studies on the status and future of forests and on the forest industry such as the Outlooks and the Forest Products Annual Market Reviews;

(e) Invite other sectors to the sessions to discuss issues related to forest information and management matters of common interest, including best practices in sustainable forestry management and their impact on the overall sustainability of forests, natural resources management, and other issues such as biodiversity and climate change; and

(f) Invite other international bodies, including Forest Europe, Eurostat, the International Tropical Timber Organization and the Conference of European Statisticians to the sessions, with a view to coordinating activities and avoiding any duplication of effort.

III. Annotations to the Provisional Agenda

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

13. The Chair will introduce the agenda and ask for its adoption.

Item 2: Outcomes of the joint seventy-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Europe, Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the thirty-ninth session of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, European Forestry Commission

14. The secretariat will present a summary of the discussions and will highlight implications for the work of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management.

Item 3: Update on international policy processes with an impact on forests

15. Participants in the session will be presented with some of the latest developments, with an impact on forest statistics, economics and management. This may include, but is not limited to, Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) work on the UN Strategic Plan for Forests (2017-2030) and UNFF's Quadrennial Integrated Programme of Work (2017-2020), the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and the

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

16. The Joint ECE/FAO Working Party will be invited to consider the impact of these policy processes on the future work of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party, as appropriate. Member States will be invited to share their views on possible regional work in support of the above-mentioned developments.

Item 4: Guidance on Work Areas

17. Delegates will be requested to review the activities of 2017 and the first quarter of 2018. They will also be expected to review future work plans for 2018 and indicate their support or where changes are needed. This guidance should cover both the work of the secretariat as well as the work of the Teams of Specialists.

18. The secretariat has invited each Team of Specialists to prepare a report to the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party by 23 February 2018 and will publish these separate reports on the website of the meeting. The leader or a designated member of the re-established team will be invited to present the work of their Team of Specialists under the Work Area. In case the Team of Specialists has not yet met to formally re-establish the new team, the leader or a designated member of the team from the period 2016/2017 will be invited to present the work and the schedule for establishing the new team.

19. Work delivered by the secretariat since the thirty-ninth session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party can be found in the four "Reports by the secretariat" on Work Areas 1-4, which will be made available prior to the meeting. The secretariat presentation at the meeting "Implementation by the secretariat" will highlight only the major achievements in order to allow for more discussion time. The secretariat will be aiming at offering interactive sessions on some items with high relevance for the work in the coming year. The "Reports by the secretariat" will contain a detailed description on the topics and the setup for the discussion.

20. Some highlights from the implementation by the secretariat are listed below.

(a) Work Area 1: Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment

21. The secretariat will update the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on the progress of ongoing work and planned activities for 2018, regarding reporting on forests, forest management, forest products markets and the analysis of these data.

22. The secretariat will only provide a short overview on the items outlined in the background paper "Report by the secretariat – Work Area 1" and member States will be given the possibility to comment on the Work Area in general. Based on guidance received by the bureau of the ECE/FAO Working Party and time available, the secretariat may organize interactive discussions on one or more of the following topics:

(a) Forest ownership – discussion by experts and stakeholders – possible implications for reporting and policy making practice;

(b) Wood energy – current publication and guidance on possible future publication, Joint Wood Energy Enquiry 2017;

(c) Status of Harmonized System (HS) 2022.

23. The details of the setup of the different focused discussions will be included in the informal background paper "Report by the secretariat – Work Area 1". The outcomes of the group work will be presented to the plenary and upon approval included in the report of the meeting.

24. The following Team of Specialists will be invited to present the results of work completed since the previous session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party, and plans for work under the new mandate (until 2019):

(a) Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management;

(b) Team of Specialists on Forest Products Statistics;

(c) Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products; and

(d) Team of Specialists on Wood Energy.

(b) Work Area 2: Policy dialogue and advice

25. The secretariat will update the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on the progress of ongoing work and planned activities for 2018, regarding forest policies and forest sector outlook.

26. The secretariat will only provide a short overview on the items outlined in the background paper "Report by the secretariat – Work Area 2". Member States will be given the possibility to comment on the Work Area in general. Based on guidance received by the bureau of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party and time available, the secretariat may organize interactive discussions on one or more of the following topics:

(a) Forest certification – update on current issues and guidance to secretariat;

(b) Forest Sector Outlook;

(c) Forests in a green economy: Mid-term review of the Rovaniemi Action Plan implementation and discussion on the next steps;

(d) Ministerial Conference on the Bonn Challenge for Forest Landscape Restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia;

(e) Regional forum on sustainable development for the UNECE region.

.27. The details of the set-up of the different focused discussions will be included in the informal background paper "Report by the secretariat – Work Area 2". The outcomes of the group work will be presented to the plenary and upon approval included in the report of the meeting.

28. The following Team of Specialists will be invited to present the results of work that have been completed since the previous session, and plans for work under the new mandate (until 2019):

(a) Team of Specialists on Forest Policy (Forest Policy Network);

(b) Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook.

29. The Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook will be invited to present the outcomes of a workshop conducted in January 2018 in Geneva. In this workshop, policy makers and experts discussed which policy questions the next round of Forest Sector Outlook Studies (FSOS) should focus on as well as other topics such as geographic and time horizon and possible scenarios.

30. The Outlook Team will also present a proposal for the implementation of the next FSOS to be discussed by the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party in the following group work.

(c) Work Area 3: Communication and outreach

31. The secretariat will update the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on progress of work and planned activities for 2018, regarding communication and outreach.

32. The secretariat will only provide a short overview on the items outlined in the background paper "Report by the secretariat – Work Area 3". Mforember States will be given the possibility to comment on the Work Area in general as well as a short update on the International Day of Forests 2018 *"Forests and Sustainable Cities"*.

33. Based on guidance received by the bureau of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party and time available, the secretariat may organize interactive discussions of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on one or more of the following topics:

(a) Discussion on the WIPoW and its possible contribution to the UN Strategic Plan for Forests;

(b) Communication on forest related matters by countries (member States will be invited to tell their stories – e.g. websites, printed material, films, etc);

34. The Team of Specialists on Forest Communication (Forest Communicators' Network) will be invited to present the results of work that have been completed since the previous session, and plans for work under the new mandate (until 2019).

(d) Work Area 4: Capacity-building

35. The secretariat will update the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on progress of work and planned activities for 2018, regarding capacity building.

36. The secretariat will only provide a short overview on the items outlined in the background paper "Report by the secretariat – Work Area 4". Member States will be given the possibility to comment on the Work Area in general. Based on guidance received by the bureau of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party and time available, the secretariat will organize interactive discussions of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on one or more of the following topics:

(a) The United Nations Development Account (UNDA) Project on "Accountability Systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia (2016-2019)";

(b) Employment in the forest sector – presentation of latest trends and discussion on the green jobs outlook.

37. The Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the forest sector will be invited to present the results of work that have been completed since the previous session, and plans for work under the new mandate (until 2019).

Item 5: Overview on the Economic Commission for Europe and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation's forest-related work in the region and list of Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work activities 2019

38. The joint seventy-fifth session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the thirty-ninth session of the FAO European Forestry Commission requested in the WIPoW [ECE/TIM/2017/2–FO:EFC/2017/2] Annex I para 4: *"A specific list of activities to implement the Programme is agreed on an annual basis by the Working Party and the Committee and the Commission. ECE and FAO are asked, in line with their governance structures, to present an overview of their forest-related work in the region to each session of the Working Party in order to facilitate the review of the proposed list"*. The secretariat offers to make the information available on the website of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management meeting prior to the meeting. Both organizations will be invited to present this list of activities for 2019 to the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party.

39. In accordance with this request, the secretariat will invite ECE and FAO to compile such an overview and present this list of activities planned for 2019 to the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party. The information will be compiled in a separate informal document titled *"Overview on ECE and FAO's forest-related work in the region"*.

40. The secretariat will present a preliminary list of activities planned for 2019 to the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party. In line with the WIPoW 2018-2021, the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party will be invited to review and agree on the list. *"The final list of activities prepared every year should help member States and regional economic integration organizations to further prioritize the work of the secretariat. A related budget will be prepared and shared with the Joint Bureaux, member States and regional economic integration organizations after the approval of the list to understand the feasibility of activities and identify funding needs."*

Item 6: Any other business

41. None at the time of writing.

Item 7: Date and place of next meeting

42. The secretariat proposes March 2019 in Geneva, Palais des Nations for the forty-first session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management and that it could be organized around the International Day of Forests, which will be celebrated on 21 March 2019. Delegates will be invited to discuss the idea, dates, as well as the structure of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party session in 2019.

Item 8: Election of officers

43. The Joint ECE/FAO Working Party will be expected to elect a Chair and two Vice-Chairs, who will hold office until the forty-first session. At its thirty-ninth session, the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party re-elected Mr. J. Prestemon (United States of America) as Chair, Mr. J. Hangler (Austria) and Mr. M. Dieter (Germany) as Vice-Chairs to hold office until the end of the fortieth session. According to current procedure, Mr. J. Hangler would leave the bureau and Mr. J. Prestemon will conclude his term of office as the Chair of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party and Mr. M. Dieter would become Chair.

44. The secretariat invites member States to consider who they would like to nominate as incoming Vice-Chair. The Joint ECE/FAO Working Party is reminded that the selection of the incoming Vice-Chair should take in consideration gender and regional balance. The secretariat will circulate an official communication on this to the Heads of Delegation.

Item 9: Adoption of the report

45. The Joint ECE/FAO Working Party will be invited to adopt the report of its session based on a draft prepared by the secretariat. This report will include a specific list of activities to implement the WIPoW is agreed on an annual basis by the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party, Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and European Forestry Commission.

IV. Tentative timetable[2]

46. The fortieth session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management will take place on 22 and 23 March 2018. Several Teams of Specialists will meet on Wednesday, 21 March 2018. The secretariat proposes the following tentative timetable:

Wednesday, 21 March 2018 (not part of the official meeting)	
10:00 – 13:00	Meeting of the Team of Specialists on Forest Products Statistics, Meeting of the Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook Meetings of other Team of Specialists meetings are under consideration
13:00 – 15:00	Lunchtime event to celebrate the International Day of Forests 2018 "Forests and Sustainable Cities"

[2] The timetable is purely indicative and may change in the course of planning of the event. It reflects the planning of the meeting on the day of the submission of the document.

Wednesday, 21 March 2018 (not part of the official meeting)	
15:00 – 18:00	Meeting of the Team of Specialists on Forest Products Statistics, Meeting of the Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook Meetings of other Team of Specialists meetings are under consideration
18:00	Reception

Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management, Fortieth session (Salle VIII)

Thursday, 22 March 2018

10:00 – 13:00	Item 1 – Item 4
15:00 – 18:00	Item 4

Friday, 23 March 2018

9:30 – 12:30	Item 4 continued
14:30 – 17:30	Item 4 continued – Item 9
17:30	Closing of fortieth session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party

V. List of important abbreviations and acronyms

COFFI	Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry
ECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
EFC	European Forestry Commission
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
HS	Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System
JWP	Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management
UNDA	United Nations Development Account
ToS	Team of Specialists
WIPoW	Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work

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Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management

Fortieth session
Geneva, 22-23 March 2018

Report of the fortieth session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management

Introduction

1. The Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management (henceforth referred to as Joint Working Party) held its fortieth session in Geneva on 22 March 2018.

2. The original dates of the session were 22-23 March 2018. However, due to the announcement of a strike of the United Nations staff taking place on 23 March 2018, the Joint Working Party agreed to complete the work in one day by working additional hours. More detailed information on this matter can be found in paragraphs 8-10 of the report.

Attendance

3. Delegations from the following member States participated in the meeting: Austria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United States of America and Uzbekistan.

4. A representative of the European Commission participated in the session.

5. The following United Nations (UN) bodies and agencies participated in the session: the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

6. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations participated in the session: Crann-Trees for Ireland, European Organization of the Sawmill Industry, PanEuern, the Polish Wood Technology Institute, the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes (PEFC), the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and the Thünen Institute.

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Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

7. The meeting was opened by Mr. Jeffrey Prestemon of the United States of America, Chair of the Joint Working Party.

8. The Chair invited the secretariat to inform the Joint Working Party about the announcement of a strike of UN staff envisaged for the following day, 23 March 2018.

9. The Joint Working Party agreed to reduce the session to one extended day by compressing the work load and foregoing interpretation after 6 p.m. The Joint Working Party also agreed that the report of the meeting would be drafted by the Working Party Bureau with the support of the secretariat and that the report shall be adopted with tacit consent, pending any amendment from the Working Party after emailing the draft report to the Joint Working Party.

10. Detailed information on the content of all presentations is available in the background documents of the meeting, and highlights are available in the annotated agenda for the meeting (ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2018/1). All documents can be found on the ECE website.

11. The agenda was adopted without amendments, in line with the working arrangements above.

Item 2: Outcomes of the joint seventy-fifth session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the thirty-ninth session of the FAO European Forestry Commission

12. The secretariat presented the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work 2018-2021 (WIPOW), adopted at the joint seventy-fifth session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and the thirty-ninth session of the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC), held in Warsaw, Poland, from 9 to 13 October 2017.

13. The Joint Working Party took note of the information provided by the secretariat.

Item 3: Update on international policy processes with an impact on forests

14. The secretariat updated the Joint Working Party on the upcoming twenty-fourth session of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO24), which will be held in Rome, Italy, from 16 to 20 July 2018, and informed participants that the meeting agenda will be shared with member States shortly.

15. Ms. Liubov Poliakova, Ukraine, informed the Joint Working party on decisions by the twelfth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF12), held in New York, United States of America, on 1-5 May 2017. This included intersessional activities as well as the provisional list of items to be addressed at the thirteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF13), to be held in New York, United States of America, from 7 to 11 May 2018.

16. The Joint Working Party took note of the information provided.

Item 4: Guidance on work areas

17. The Joint Working Party was informed on the work and results achieved since the previous Joint Working Party meeting in March 2017 for all Team of Specialists.

Work area 1: Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment

Forest resources

18. The secretariat provided a brief update on the work undertaken on reporting on forests and sustainable forest management.

19. The secretariat expressed its gratitude to national and international experts, including national correspondents and members of the Team of Specialists, as well as the governments of Georgia, Norway, the Russian Federation and Switzerland, for their input and support to the work of the secretariat. The secretariat also recognized the excellent cooperation with international organizations involved in this work.

20. Mr. Stein M. Tomter, leader of the Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management, presented activities of the Team of Specialists in 2017 and 2018 and on the work planned until the next session of the Joint Working Party.

21. The Joint Working Party:

(a) welcomed the information provided and expressed satisfaction with the progress of work on the 2020 global and regional reporting;

(b) supported the proposed plan for future work pertinent to the forest resources assessment in the framework of global and regional reporting;

(c) took note of the decision by the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the European Forestry Commission to not continue work on the System for Evaluation of the Management of Forests (SEMAFOR);

(d) appreciated the update on the activities implemented by the Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management and agreed with the direction of work and actions proposed, including the establishment of an informal forest databank network and the analysis of the reporting on forest damages;

(e) requested that the secretariat provide more information to member States about the initiatives proposed by the Team of Specialists in due course.

Forest products statistics

22. Mr. Branko Glavonjic, leader of the Team of Specialists on Forest Products Statistics, presented the report of the Team of Specialists.

23. The secretariat provided information about the status and the next steps for amending product classification under the Harmonized System 2022 (HS 2022).

24. The Joint Working Party:

(a) took note of the work on conversion factors and requested that the secretariat inform the European Environment Agency, Eurostat and Forest Europe on the status of this study;

(b) encouraged changes to HS 2022, particularly on engineered wood products, and invited the secretariat to solicit support from delegates for this process, if necessary;

(c) welcomed the progress made to assess data on the circular economy, noting the addition of recovered wood in the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire, and encouraged further work in this area;

(d) expressed support for the work of the Team of Specialists on Forest Products Statistics and called on member States to nominate additional members;

Forest product markets

25. The Joint Working Party was briefed by the secretariat on plans for the *Forest Products Annual Market Review 2017-2018*, and was invited to provide guidance on its quality, content and timing. The plan for this year's special chapter is to cover high-performance wood construction and related barriers and incentives. The secretariat invited the Joint Working Party to suggest experts who could provide country-specific information for use in the special chapter.

26. The secretariat thanked the Russian Federation for providing funding for the 2017 edition of the *Forest Products Annual Market Review*, as well as the Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products for proof-reading and providing expertise, the University of Helsinki for providing interns, and the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire correspondents, authors and partners.

27. Mr. Eoin O'Driscoll, leader of the Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products, presented the achievements and activities of the Team in 2017 and their tentative plans for 2018.

28. The Joint Working Party:

(a) acknowledged the financial support provided by Finland for the 2018 *Forest Products Annual Market Review*;

(b) recognized the importance of the work on forest products markets and the contributions of the Team of Specialists. Country Market Statements were identified as a potential source of information on wood construction and other topics as well as for inclusion in the *Market Review*;

(c) supported the drafting of a special chapter on wood construction and suggested that innovative use of wood, such as for production of chemical extracts, could be a topic to consider for future special chapters;

(d) stressed the importance of involving the private sector in discussions and work on forest products markets. Making information in the *Market Review* more relevant to the private sector, could be one way of increasing the involvement of industry representatives;

(e) pointed out, in particular regarding the Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products but also more generally regarding all teams, that it would be helpful to keep the lists of Teams of Specialists up to date and available on the website, and periodically distribute them to member States' focal points. In this regard, it requested the secretariat to update the website in a timelier manner.

29. Mr. Jeremy Wall from the European Commission elaborated on the development of good-practice guidance on the cascading use of wood, as required under the EU's Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP). The guidance would be in the form of an "information document" (not legally binding), most likely a "staff working document" (SWD), being produced by the Commission during 2018. Delegates were invited to contribute good-practice case studies to the Commission, including through a stakeholder workshop on 13 April 2018. The Joint Working Party noted that the "information document" could be used as a basis for a good practices handbook on the cascaded use of wood. The secretariat will pursue the opportunity for cooperation between the EU and other UNECE Member States on the cascading use of wood and will start by providing more information on the work of the European Commission on the ECE website (www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM /timber/meetings/2018/20180322/EC-invitation-circular-economy.pdf).

30. The secretariat informed delegates about the preliminary programme and status of the organization of the seventy-sixth session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry, to be held in Vancouver, Canada, from 5-9 November 2018.

31. The Joint Working Party:

(a) supported the idea of a "Declaration" addressing the importance of wood products for sustainable development to be signed by stakeholders after it has been approved by the Committee;

(b) expressed its support for the proposed programme of the session and agreed to participate in the preparation of the draft Declaration.

Wood Energy

32. The secretariat provided a short update on the work of the Team of Specialists on Wood Energy. The secretariat also thanked the United States of America for hosting the last meeting of the Team and acknowledged Finland's financial and in-kind support for the publication, *Wood Energy in the ECE Region*.

33. Mr. Sebastian Glasenapp, Thünen Institut, presented the latest results of the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry for the reference year 2015. The presentation can be found on the ECE website. Some of the information from the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry 2015 has already been used for the upcoming publication, *Wood energy in the ECE Region*.

34. The Joint Working Party:

(a) provided guidance on the future data collection for the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry and publication of results;

(b) encouraged the secretariat to further improve the harmonization of wood energy data throughout relevant databases in the forest and other sectors (Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire/FAO statistics, Forest Resources Assessment, State of Europe's Forests, Group of Experts on Renewable Energy, Environmental Performance Reviews, etc.);

(c) requested publication of the wood energy data earlier than in previous years, ideally within one year after the launch of the Joint Wood Energy Enquire;

(d) agreed that the next round of the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry (for the reference year 2017) should be launched in autumn 2018 and be presented to the forty-first session of the Joint Working Party in 2019;

(e) proposed organizing capacity-building workshops every two years, in line with the reporting cycle of the Joint Wood Energy Enquire;

(f) agreed that the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry results should be available through: (i) short country profiles addressed to policy makers, containing aggregated information on sources, users of wood energy, trends over time and comparison to other renewable energy and energy consumption; (ii) a searchable, interactive database hosted by the ECE Statistics Division, which provides data on sources and users of wood energy by country; (iii) a compressed flat-file of the entire dataset for download.

35. The secretariat informed the Joint Working Party that the reduction in the number of members in the Team of Specialists on Wood Energy is a result of the review of their membership under the new programme of work. The Team invited members of the Joint Working Party to encourage participation and nominate additional participants to ensure adequate expertise.

Work Area 2: Policy dialogue and advice

36. Mr. Michal Synek, Czech Republic, briefed the Joint Working Party on the outcome of the international conference "Marianske Lazne +70", which took place in Czech Republic on 5-7 September 2017 to celebrate seventy years of ECE and FAO cooperation on forests. The event also included a roundtable on forest certification in the ECE Region.

37. Mr. Christoph Dürr, Switzerland, reported on the outcomes of the roundtable discussion on "Sustainable Forest Management and the Sustainable Development Goals",

held during the "Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the ECE Region" in Geneva, Switzerland, on 1 March 2018.

38. The secretariat informed the Joint Working Party that in 2019, the "Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the ECE Region" will be held on the same date as the International Day of Forests. The theme of the International Day of Forests 2019 will be "Forests and Education". The Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the ECE Region in 2019 will review, among others, SDG 4 "Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning".

39. The secretariat, on behalf of Mr. Kanat Rakhmetov, Republic of Kazakhstan, informed the Joint Working Party about the upcoming Ministerial Roundtable on Forest Landscape Restoration and the Bonn Challenge in the Caucasus and Central Asia, which will be held in Astana, Kazakhstan, on 21-22 June 2018.

40. The secretariat also provided an update on the mid-term review of the Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy, undertaken under the guidance of the Team of Specialists on Forest Policy (Forest Policy Network) and presented an overview of the Joint Section's activities contributing to the implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan.

41. Ms. Marta Gaworska, leader of the Team of Specialists on Forest Policy (Forest Policy Network), provided an overview of the past and planned activities of the Team of Specialists.

42. The Joint Working Party:

(a) welcomed the opportunity to promote forest education during the next International Day of Forests and requested that the secretariat explore the possibility of organizing a roundtable focused on "Forests and Education" at the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in 2019;

(b) recognized the work of the Forest Policy Network and the work on the Rovaniemi Action Plan;

(c) stressed the need of further discussion on the future of the Rovaniemi Action Plan and the need to link it with the SDGs and suggested the use of electronic communication with an aim to promote the adoption of the Rovaniemi Action Plan to a wider audience;

(d) acknowledged the wide array of policy issues and suggested that the ToS should focus their work to a smaller area of priority issues;

(e) emphasized that the team work more closely with other ToSs, namely the ToS on Forest Sector Outlook;

(f) noted the need to examine how other policies impact work in the forest sector and the benefits of communicating forest policy to other sectors. In that context, policy updates and briefs prepared by the secretariat have been helpful and should be continued.

Forest Sector Outlook

43. Mr. Mart-Jan Schelhaas, researcher at the Centre for Ecosystems Studies Wageningen Environmental Research and former leader of the Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook, presented the activities and achievements of the Team during the previous year; including possible scenarios (and their technical feasibility) to be included in the next Forest Sector Outlook Study. Mr. Schelhaas informed the meeting that Ms. Tuula Packalen, Professor at the Natural Resources Institute Finland, had been elected as new Outlook Team leader.

44. The secretariat briefed the Joint Working Party about the roadmap for the development of the next Forest Sector Outlook Study.

45. The secretariat invited the Joint Working Party to send information about current or planned activities in member States regarding outlook studies after the session by email.

46. Several delegates discussed priorities with respect to the presented list of scenarios. Given the short time available, the secretariat noted that it would send the list of scenarios to delegates after the session in order to receive further guidance. Some delegates suggested adding a scenario on nature conservation. It was noted that the final decision on scenarios should be based on relevance, feasibility and resource implications.

47. The Joint Working Party:

(a) agreed that 2040 would be a reasonable projection year for the currently planned Forest Sector Outlook Study;

(b) indicated a preference for having a study covering the whole ECE region, ideally with an integrated modelling for all sub-regions. Some participants mentioned that outlook information at the national level would provide valuable additional information;

(c) stressed the importance of capacity-building in the area of outlook studies. This could also help to decrease costs and time for future studies, enabling countries to contribute in the future;

(d) stressed that member States can increase their capacities by participating actively in the development of the current Forest Sector Outlook Study.

48. The secretariat and Mr. Sch lhaas invited countries currently not represented in the Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook to consider appointing a national representative to the Team. The secretariat also invited the Joint Working Party to contribute to the development of the current outlook study by sharing their relevant national data in order to increase the accuracy of the results. In this regard, the Working Party:

(a) invited member States to appoint national focal points for this process. It was added that this could also be done in the form of membership in the Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook;

(b) suggested that the results of the modelling work could feed into policy briefs. These should contain policy opportunities rather than policy recommendations;

(c) stressed the importance of consultations and dialogue throughout the process of the development of the outlook study, as well as consultation with other relevant Teams of Specialists ensuring that emerging trends and data are given consideration in the context of the study;

(d) suggested exploring possible synergies and cooperation with related work by the European National Forest Inventory Network, the International Institute for Applied System Analysis, and Forest Europe;

(e) noted that current resources available are not sufficient to deliver a good quality study covering various scenarios. The Joint Working Party invited interested member States and other stakeholders to support the outlook study through in-kind and financial contributions.

Work Area 3: Communication and outreach

49. Ms. Magdalena Wolicka, member of the Team of Specialists on Forest Communication (Forest Communicators' Network), presented the achievements and activities of the Team in 2017. This included the fourth European Forest Week, which was hosted by Poland and plans for 2018.

50. The secretariat informed the Joint Working Party on the upcoming communication strategy for the secretariat, including major events, publications and outreach activities. The secretariat also noted that the International Day of Forests 2019, with the theme "Forests and Education", will coincide with the ECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (see Work Area 2).

51. The Joint Working Party:

(a) reiterated its recommendation to use the upcoming opportunity for synergies between the International Day of Forests 2019 and the ECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, requesting that the secretariat organize the International Day of Forests in conjunction with the Forum;

(b) recommended extending communication activities to target groups outside the forest sector.

Work area 4: Capacity-building

52. The secretariat informed the Joint Working Party about the planned capacity-building activities in the area of green jobs in the forest sector.

53. Mr. Andreas Bernasconi, leader of the Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector (Joint ILO/ECE/FAO Expert Network), presented the past and upcoming activities of the Team of Specialists.

54. The Joint Working Party:

(a) took note of the information provided and appreciated the work done and the planned activities of the ToS on Green Jobs;

(b) suggested supporting research on the national criteria and indicator sets for sustainable forest management (drafted by the five project countries) as it relates to the project on Accountability Systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia;

(c) expressed appreciation for the wood balance work, urging further development in this area on a regular (but not annual) basis. Data should be calculated over a larger interval to avoid problems with stock changes.

Item 5: Overview on the Economic Commission for Europe and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation's forest-related work in the region and list of Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work activities 2019

55. The secretariat presented a tentative list of activities planned for 2019 to the Joint Working Party. In line with the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work 2018-2021 (ECE/TIM/2017/2-FO:EFC/2017/2), the Joint Working Party reviewed the list of activities as contained in the document "List of activities to implement the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work: Activities and publications planned for 2019".

56. The list of activities, reflecting amendments by the Joint Working Party, was approved as contained in the Annex.

57. The meeting was also informed about ECE and FAO activities beyond the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work.

58. Ms. Anukka Lipponen provided an overview of forest-related work under the water and energy nexus work by the ECE Environment Division.

59. Mr. Gianluca Sambucini of the ECE Sustainable Energy Division presented the work of the Group on Renewable Energy Experts.

60. The presentation from the ECE Forests, Land and Housing Division, as well as other presentations from the Environment Division are available on the ECE website.

61. Ms. Alicja Kacprzak of the Joint Section provided an overview of FAO's work, outside of the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work, on forests in the ECE Region. The

Joint Working Party was informed that a more detailed version of the presentation was sent to delegates by email and is available on the ECE website.

Item 6: Any other business

62. As in previous years, the secretariat inquired with the Joint Working Party whether it requires official documentation (parliamentary documents) as the background documents for the meeting or whether the meeting agrees to continue with informal documents in English only. The annotated agenda and the report from the meeting would continue to be the only official documents prepared.

63. The Joint Working Party confirmed their preference for issuing only the annotated agenda and the meeting report as official documents, while the other meeting documents could be issued as informal documents. However, in the absence of France and the Russian Federation in the meeting, the Joint Working Party requested that the secretariat obtain feedback from these two countries in due time before the next session.

Item 7: Date and place of next meeting

64. The Joint Working Party took note of the current plans by the ECE to hold the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development during the week of 18-22 March 2019 and agreed that the forty-first session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management will be held on 27-29 March 2019.

65. The Joint Working Party requested a three-day session to allow sufficient time for discussion for preparing for the joint session of the COFFI and the EFC in 2019 and allow for interactive sessions.

Item 8: Election of officers

66. At the end of the fortieth session, Mr. Jeff Prestemon, United States, Chair of the thirty-ninth and fortieth sessions, was elected as Vice-Chair. Mr. Matthias Dieter, Germany, Vice-Chair of the thirty-ninth and fortieth sessions, was elected as the new Chair. Ms. Magdalena Wolicka, Poland, was elected as new Vice-Chair. They will hold office until the end of the forty-first session.

67. The Working Party expressed its appreciation to Mr. Johannes Hangler for his dedication and service as chair and vice chair of the Working Party from 2013-2018.

Item 9: Adoption of the report

68. The Joint Working Party adopted its report via electronic means through tacit consent.

69. The Chair closed the meeting at 8 p.m.

Annex

I. Approved list of activities 2019

A. Work Area 1: Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment

1. Forest resources

(a) Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on forest resources, functions and services, Sustainable Forest Management, and the contribution of the forest sector to a green economy

- 2020 reporting cycle of the Global Forest Resource Assessment and the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire: cooperation with FAO and other Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire partners on the finalization of the national data collection and review;
- Joint 2020 pan-European reporting on forests (jointly with the Forest Europe Liaison Unit Bratislava, in coordination with the FAO Global Forest Resource Assessment secretariat):
    - Finalization of national data collection and review;
    - Production of the interactive database.

(b) Analysis and assessment of the state of forests and the sustainability of forest management; and the monitoring of the role of the forest sector in a green economy

- 2020 reporting cycle of the Global Forest Resource Assessment and the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire: support to FAO Global Forest Resource Assessment secretariat to analyze the global data;
- Joint 2020 pan-European reporting on forests (jointly with the Forest Europe Liaison Unit Bratislava, in coordination with the FAO Global Forest Resource Assessment secretariat):
    - Analysis of data and preparation of draft chapters of the State of Europe's Forest 2020;
    - Joint conference for the National Correspondents, Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management and authors to discuss the first draft of the report of the State of Europe's Forest 2020;
    - Compilation and design of the report;
    - Language review and proofreading.

(c) Cooperation with, and support to, international processes in Sustainable Forest Management, including regional criteria and indicator processes

- Support to the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat on reporting the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and the related communication strategy;
- Cooperation with, and support to countries, organizations and international processes (e.g. Forest Europe, Montréal Process) in the region on monitoring sustainable forest management;
- Contribution to capacity-building on Criteria and Indicators under the UNDA project (Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan);

- Organization of the meeting(s) of the Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management.

2. Forest products and markets

(a) Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products

- Preparation of historical data on forest products, species trade, and prices;
- Preparation of forecast data on forest products production and trade;
- Improvement of the existing database;
- Dissemination through the FAO Corporate Statistical Database and ECE websites.

(b) Analysis of markets for forest products, notably relevant policy aspects, including the Forest Products Annual Market Review and annual Market Discussions

- Publication of the *Forest Products Annual Market Review 2018-2019*;
- Preparation of data and the statistical annex for the *Forest Products Annual Market Review 2018-2019*;
- Preparation of tables and graphs for the Market Forecasts 2019-2020;
- Preparation of the Market Discussion 2019 and the Market Statement 2019;
- Dissemination of analysis at industry meetings;
- Publication of a topical market analysis.

(c) Support of international processes in forest products

- Participation in the Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics and attendance at other international meetings;
- Review of international classifications, support to the Harmonized System 2022 revision.
- Organization of the meetings of the Team of Specialists on Forest Products Statistics and the Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products.

3. Wood energy

(a) Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on wood energy

- Issuance of a new database on wood energy with 2017 data;
- Analysis of results of the Joint Wood Energy Enquire 2017;
- Dissemination of the Joint Wood Energy Enquire 2017 data at relevant international meetings.

(b) Analysis of energy-related issues, including demand for, and supply of, wood energy

- Preparation of a study on wood energy in the ECE Region and dissemination of the outcomes of previous study at relevant international meetings;
- Provide input to the ECE Environmental Performance Reviews on forests.

(c) Support of international processes in wood energy

- Presentation of the wood energy work at relevant international meetings and cooperation with relevant processes (e.g. International Energy Agency, International Renewable Energy Agency, Wood Energy Days etc.);
- Organization of meeting of the Team of Specialists on Wood Energy.

B. Work Area 2: Policy dialogue and advice

(a) Follow-up to the Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy

- Monitoring of the implementation of Rovaniemi Action Plan;
- Implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan priority actions as agreed by the Joint Working Party in 2018.

(b) Contribution to the policy-related components of activities under Work Areas 1, 3 and 4

- No activity planned at the time of writing.

(c) Forest Sector Outlook

- Organization of the meeting(s) of the Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook;
- Organization of a workshop to discuss first results of scenario modelling for the next outlook study;
- Lead the development of the next outlook study.

(d) Green Jobs in the Forest Sector

- Organization of the meeting(s) of the Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector;
- Organization of a workshop on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector;
- Promotion and dissemination of the study on the Forest Sector Workforce.

(e) Monitoring and support of international processes relevant to policymaking for the forest sector

- Organization of the meeting(s) of the Forest Policy Network.

(f) Tools for policymaking - studies and publications

- Guidelines on the development of Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management for the State of Forests of the Caucasus and Central Asia;
- Publication of the State of Forests of the Caucasus and Central Asia.

C. Work Area 3: Communication and outreach

(a) Organization of events and campaigns in support of Sustainable Forest Management and forest products and services

- International Day of Forests on Forests and Education, 21 March 2019, Geneva, Switzerland;
- Side event at the fourteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF14), May 2019, New York;

- 5th European Forest Week during the joint session of COFFI and the EFC session in collaboration with the host country in 2019;
- Other side events during the joint session of the COFFI and the EFC;
- Organization of the annual meeting of the Team of Specialists on Forest Communication (Forest Communicators' Network).

(b) Dissemination of information

- Dissemination of information via policy briefs, press briefs and ad hoc studies, whenever results are available and new information is released.

(c) Press releases will be published to present the outcomes of workshops, events and publications. Outreach activities beyond the forest sector, disseminating information that highlights the relevance of forests and forest products to other sectors (e.g. energy events, biodiversity and environment meetings, sustainable construction and building, etc.)

- International Day of Forests 2019;
- Events organized in the margins of main forest related as well as cross-sectional meetings.

D. Work Area 4: Capacity-building

Organization of capacity-building workshops on:

- The final Regional Forest Reporting Workshop under the ECE/FAO UNDA project "Accountability Systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia" will take place in the second half of 2019, in Kyrgyzstan (tbc);
- Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire correspondents meeting on improving knowledge about and responses to the questionnaire;
- Regional capacity-building workshop jointly with FAO and Forest Europe on the the global and regional reporting on forests and Sustainable Forest Management).

E. Monitoring and management of the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work

(a) Intergovernmental Meetings

- Organization of the meeting of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management in 2019;
- Organization of the joint session of the COFFI and the EFC in 2019.

(b) Bureaux Meetings

- Organization of the Bureaux meetings upon request of the Chairs of the COFFI and the EFC.

II. List of publications for 2019

Title	English	French	Russian
Forest Products Annual Market Review 2018-2019	E-600	F-50	R-50
Outlook for Forest Products Markets (2019)	English only, online publications		
Forestry and Timber Study Paper (2019)	E-400	F-50	R-50
Forestry and Timber Discussion Paper (2019)	E-400		
Forestry and Timber Discussion Paper (2019)	English only, online publications		
Forestry and Timber Discussion Paper (2019)	E-500		